

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00536 200636Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 SCCT-01 /072 W

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R 200546Z APR 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SZJSTATE WASHDC 3077

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION

1. WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF INCREASED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN THE CITY OF BAGHDAD, THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THIS WEEK OF SABOTAGE IN THE NORTH ROMELIA OIL FIELDS. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT ARMY UNITS IN THE BAGHDAD AREA HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALERT AND WE HAVE NOTED AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF LOW LEVEL PASSES OVER CITY BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

2. COMMENT: AS USUAL, THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE RUMORS OF DISSIDENT ACTIVITY, BUT MERE FACT THAT SUCH RUMORS PERSIST AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF BAATHI RULE HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING PROBLEMS FACED BY REGIME IN ESTABLISHING ITS LEGITIMACY IN IRAQ'S NOTORIOUSLY UNSTABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE. WHILE WE NOT AWARE OF ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO REGIME, WE EXPECT IRAQ'S POWERFUL SECURITY AGENCIES TO CONTINUE TO DOMINATE ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE IN IRAQ AS LONG AS REGIME IS FACED WITH REAL OR IMAGINED OPPOSITION ACTIVITY. END COMMENT.

WILEY

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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